

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel Claims 1 - 5.

Kindly add the following new Claims:

- 5
A
- 6. A rubber mixture comprising one or more rubbers with 0.1 to 2 wt.% of bonded carboxyl groups or their salts and a glass transition temperature in the range from -120° to -50°C and one or more fillers in the range 10 to 500 parts by wt., with respect to 100 parts by wt. of rubber.
7. A rubber mixture according to Claim 1, wherein said rubber is formed from diolefins.
8. A process for preparing a rubber with 0.1 to 2 wt.% of bonded carboxyl group comprising the step, after polymerization in solution, of reacting rubber with carboxylmercaptans of the general formula (I)



in which

R¹ represents a linear, branched or cyclic C₁-C₃₆ alkylene group, which may optionally be substituted with up to 3 further carboxyl groups, or which may be interrupted by nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atoms, or a C₆-C₁₂-arylene group

and

X represents hydrogen or a metal or ammonium ion,

optionally in the presence of radical starters.

- [illegible]